

MA THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

PRESS RELEASE

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Leona E. Prasse, curator emeritus in the Department of Prints and Drawings at The Cleveland Museum of Art, died Sunday, December 23, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Miss Prasse retired from The Cleveland Museum of Art in September, 1967, after forty-two years as a curator in the Department of Prints and Drawings. "The extraordinary richness of the Museum's collection of prints and drawings is due in large measure to Miss Prasse's untiring efforts to acquire the finest possible works for the Museum," states Museum director Dr. Evan H. Turner.

According to Louise S. Richards, chief curator of prints and drawings at the Museum, she was also one of the most important donors to the department. Her own collection was formed with great discrimination and always with the thought of how it would fit into the Museum's collection. Her gifts to the Museum number nearly five hundred, principally prints and drawings dating from the sixteenth century to the present day. They include a pen and ink study by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo for a painting of the Virgin and Child in the Metropolitan Museum of Art; more than forty woodcuts, etchings, drypoints, and lithographs by Lyonel Feininger; prints by Dürer, Pieter Bruegel I, Rembrandt, Piranesi, Renoir, and Toulouse-Lautrec; paintings and monotypes by Maurice Prendergast; and drawings by Charles Burchfield.

In 1956 Miss Prasse received a Guggenheim Fellowship award which she used for the research and compilation of the definitive catalogue of the graphic work of the German-American artist Lyonel Feininger (1871-1956). The catalogue, begun

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by Miss Prasse in close collaboration with Feininger before his death, and completed with the assistance of his wife, was published in 1972 to critical acclaim. Alfred Frankenstein in Artnews described it as "a model of what a catalogue raisonn  ought to be." Harold Joachim, the late curator of prints and drawings at the Art Institute of Chicago, saw it as "indispensable not only for every print collection but for everyone involved with twentieth-century art."

To coincide with the publication of the catalogue and the one hundredth anniversary of Feininger's birth, Miss Prasse organized a retrospective exhibition of one hundred prints by Feininger which was shown at The Cleveland Museum of Art. Among the many other exhibitions which she organized was the first ever devoted to the drawings of Charles Burchfield.

Miss Prasse also played an important role in The Print Club of Cleveland, both in her service to the Club and in her guidance of its members.

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For additional information, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.